THE

TRYAL

AND

CONDEMNATION

OF TWO

Popiſh Prieſts,

ANDREW BROMMICH and WILLIAM ATKYNS, for High Treaſon at *Stafford* Aſſizes, *Auguſt* 16, 1679.

WITH

An Account of the Notable Equivocation of ſome Witneſſes of the Romiſh Church there produced.

AND

The Reaſon thereof from their own Authors.

Mr. *Stephen Dugdale*, one of the Grand Evidences of the POPISH PLOT being there preſent.

LONDON,

Printed for *John Amery* at the *Peacock* in *Fleet-ſtreet*. 1679.

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OF TWO

Popish Priests,

ANDREW BROMWICH and WILLIAM ASKYNS, for High Treason at Stafford Assizes, August 16, 1679.

WITH

An Account of the Notable Equivocation of some Witnesses of the Romish Church there [illegible].

AND

The Reason hereof from their own Authors.

Mr. Stephen Dugdale, one of the Grand Evidences of the POPISH PLOT being there present.

LONDON,

Printed for John Amery at the Peacock in Fleet-street. 1679.

THE TRYAL AND CONDEMNATION OF TWO Popiſh Prieſts, etc.

WEre there no other Evidence of a Popiſh Plot lately, I wiſh I could not ſay ſtill carried on, for ſubverting the Eſtabliſh'd Government and Religion of theſe Kingdoms of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, (the only remaining Bulwark of the Proteſtant Intereſt throughout the World;) The unuſual Reſort and numerous Swarms of Jeſuits, Prieſts, and other Romiſh Locuſts from their Out-landiſh Seminaries of *Rome*, *Valladolid*, Saint *Omers*, *Doway* and *Rhemes* (thoſe conſtant Nurſeries, and for about one hundred years continued Rendezvouz of Rebellion and Treaſon, ever ſince *Allen*, afterwards a Cardinal, laid the firſt Platform at *Doway* in the year 1568) that have of late come into *England*; might be a ſufficient proof that they had ſome more than ordinary deſign in hand. For though by the Statute of the twenty ſeventh of *Elizabeth*, on moſt juſt and neceſſary reaſons, *viz. Their diſowning her Majeſties Right to the Crown, and juſtifying her Depoſal by the Pope, and that all her Subjects were diſcharged from their Allegiance, and all obedience to her, &c.* It was made Capital for any of thoſe Seminariſts to come into theſe Kingdoms; ſo that their firſt ſetting a ſtep on Engliſh Ground

was by Law High Treason, yet such is their confidence, that well knowing the premises, they daily came over in great numbers, and as if they had a publick indulgence, did not stick continually to pervert and seduce his Majesties Subjects to the Idolatries and Superstitions of the Romish Church. Yet had this been all, and managed with any modest colourable pretence of Conscience, it might possibly have been born with by our most Gracious Soveraign, the best and most merciful of Princes, without exacting the severity of those Laws; but when these very men so obnoxious before to just punishment, have so far abused his Majesties Lenity, and compassionate good nature, as to contrive, and vigorously promote horrid Designs against his Sacred Life, and what is yet more dear to him, the true Protestant Religion, as it is most apparent they lately have done, it cannot but be thought high time to restrain their insolence, by putting in execution those wholesome Laws, which their continual Treasonable Practises have not only justified, but rendred absolutely necessary for the preservation of his Life and Crown.

In pursuance hereof, in such a juncture of Affairs, the Honourable Judges of Assize had particular order to give in charge the strict prosecution of all Jesuits and Popish Priests that might be discovered in their respective Circuits; and 'tis wonderful, considering the subtle Disguises and Caution of that sort of Men, and the secresie of their seduced Followers, who as strictly conceal their Priests, as those do their Confessions, that so many should be discovered.

At the Assizes of *Stafford* there were no fewer than nine persons charged as Popish Priests, whereof two, *viz. George Hopson* and *Robert Peters*, as being 'tis said obnoxious to an Indictment of another nature, are to be removed to *London*, the Writs for that purpose being now in the Sheriff's hands: five others suspected on violent presumptions to be Jesuits, are ordered to remain in custody till the next Assizes; the evidence against them that appears for the present, not being full enough, according to the mercifulness of our English Laws, to proceed against them to a Legal Conviction: though it is credibly reported, and reasonably believed there will, before that time, come in sufficient and demonstrable proof.

The

The other two, *viz.* *Andrew Bromwich*, late of *Perry-Bar*, and *William Atkyns* of *Wolver-Hampton* in this County of *Stafford* (for the multitude of Papists roosting there, commonly called *Little Rome*) did now come to their Tryals. The first was a young lusty brisk Fellow, lately come from beyond the Seas, and as he pretended (according to the usual Arts of that Tribe who are never to seek for an excuse) a *Merchant* heretofore in *France* and *Portugal*: which may pass well enough under the favour of a Catholick Figure. For no doubt he had good store of *Roman Commodities to vend* amongst his silly Popish *Chapmen*, as consecrated *Beads*, *Crucifixes*, *Agnus Dei's*, *Pardons*, *Indulgences*, and such like Trumpery, with not a little *Sedition*, *Rebellion* and *Treason* in to the Bargain. The first and most material Witness to prove him a Priest, was one *Anne Robinson*, who about a year ago was a Papist, and then seduced to that Religion by a wheadling Priest, who is since fled; but upon consideration of the horrid Plot carried on by those of that Religion, and the charitable pains of some Protestant Divines, she hath been reduced again to the Church of *England*. The Evidence she gave against him, was to this effect.

That about *Christmas* last he said Mass, and she received the Eucharist, or Sacrament from him in a Wafer, in a private Popish Conventicle, six or seven being then in company; and before that time twice at one Mr. *Purcel's*, and twice at one Mr. *Birch's*.

But most observable it was, that there being two others, known Papists, summoned in for Evidence, and whom she swore positively to have received the Sacrament, and heard him say Mass the same times with her; they notwithstanding, according to the common Principles and Practices of their fraudulent Religion, which teaches them to dispense with truth, or the most sacred Oath, to save a Priest from danger, did foully equivocate in their Evidence, and denyed *that they knew him*; but the contrary was proved upon them, and thereupon, and other concurrent Evidence, and irrefragable Circumstances, the Jury was satisfied, and brought him in Guilty.

But lest any affronted Papist should say, or weak Protestant think, that I wrong the Popish Church, in asserting,

that they teach, a person may lawfully deny the truth, or affirm a lye, though upon Oath, to secure one of their Priests, I shall here make it good from their own approved Authors, and then leave the indifferent Reader to judge what account is to be made of these mens perjury, or the late impudent Lyes of the Novices from S. *Omers* against Doctor *Oates's* Testimony. Our first proof shall be taken from no less than a whole Popish College, *viz.* that of *Rhemes*, who in their Annotations on their English Translation of the New Testament, upon *Acts* 23. *verse* 12. lay down this Doctrine in these express words, —— *If thou be put to an Oath to accuse Catholicks for serving God, as they ought to do, or to utter any innocent man to God's Enemies, and his, thou oughtest first to refuse such unlawful Oaths, but if thou have not constancy and courage so to do, yet know thou, that such Oaths bind not at all in Conscience and Law of God, but may, and must be broken under pain of damnation.*

Secondly, to shew you how you shall shift and deny the Truth in such Cases, I shall cite another Document of theirs, in a Book Intituled, —*A Treatise tending to Pacification*, Printed *Permissu Superiorum*, in the year 1607; and said to be written by their famous Jesuit, *Parsons*. *Page* 426. he thus instructs his Catholicks, —*Our Doctors say, and maintn, that when the Judge is not lawful* [so with them is every Protestant Judge, especially when he meddles with their Priests] *or that he inquireth of secrets which appertain not to his jurisdiction, then any Witness may refuse to answer, yea, though he hath first sworn to answer directly, may use* a Refuge, *that is to say, he may deny all in form, or use doubtful, or* Equivocal *words, and other such manner of ordinary Evasions, which if they prevail not then he may deny, and say,* Nihil scio, nihil vidi, nihil audivi, *I know nothing of the matter, I have seen nothing, I have heard nothing,* reserving [Pray, observe the horrid Cheat, how to baulk an Oath, and stifle Conscience in a Roman Catholik Way] *in his mind the other part* (of the intended equivocating Sentence) *that he knows nothing, hath seen nothing, nor heard nothing within that unjust Examination he is bound to answer.*

The same Author, pag. 495. [asserting and justifying the use of Equivocation, recites with approbation this Case, put by one *Sotus*, one of their Popish Doctors; —*If*, saith he, *I having seen* Peter kill John, *and being afterwards examined upon*

the ſame injuſtly, (and we gueſs how far that will extend in a Catholick Senſe) *whether I may ſay I know nothing thereof?* To which he giveth this Anſwer; ---Reſpondetur quod jure poſſum reſpondere, Neſcio; quia jure intelligitur, neſcio, ut dicam; aut neſcio eo modo quo jure debeam dicere: *I affirm, that I may rightly anſwer, that I know nothing thereof, that is, I know it not to declare it; or I know it not in ſuch a manner, as by Law I ought to utter the ſame.*

An hundred ſuch Inſtances might be given from their own approved Pens; and who can think but the private Inſtructions of their little Father-Confeſſors are agreeable to theſe Rules of their great Doctors; and therefore 'tis no wonder if theſe two well diſciplined Papiſts denyed upon their Oaths, that they *knew* this their Ghoſtly Father Mr. *Brommich*, that is, they *did not know him* in their ſenſe to be *guilty of Treaſon*, or to have *taken Orders at* Jeruſalem, or any thing elſe that they ſhould pleaſe to have reſerv'd intheir fallacious minds. As for the other perſon indicted, Mr. *Atkyns*, the Evidence was very full and home, that they heard him ſay Maſs and Prayers in an unknown Tongue, that they ſaw him adminiſter the Sacrament in a Wafer, after the manner of the Church of *Rome*; and one of the Witneſſes ſwore directly, that he himſelf had been at Confeſſion with him, and received abſolution from him; ſo that he was likewiſe brought in guilty: and the Court proceeded to pronounce Sentence of death againſt them, according to Law. But by order, their Execution is reſpited, till his Majeſty be further informed, and ſhall declare his Gracious Pleaſure therein.

There were likewiſe theſe Aſſizes, Tryed one Mr. *Keme*, a Seminary Prieſt at *Hereford*, and one *William Jones* of the ſame Quality at *Monmouth*. But againſt each of theſe there being but one poſitive Witneſs, as to ſaying Maſs in their Veſtments, adminiſtring the Sacrament, *&c.* and the reſt of rhe Evidence only Circumſtantial, neither of them were brought in Guilty.

And hereby the whole world may take notice of, and and admire the clemency of his Majeſty, the tenderneſs of his Laws, and the moderation of his Proteſtant Subjects; and how little reaſon Papiſts at home, or their Brethren abroad, have to complain of any hardſhip uſed towards them

them in *England*, when after such obstinacy in repeated Treasons, and Contempt of his Majesties Proclamations, commanding them away, and the unparallelled provocation of their Conspiracy, yet still they are proceeded against with all kind of equity, and allowed the utmost privileges of Law; and even those that happen to be Convicted, ofttimes after Condemnation enjoy their Lives, by the mercy of that Prince whom their mercileſs Faction would of late so impiously and ungratefully have murdered.

What rigors and severities would other Nations, and the Roman Catholicks beyond the Seas, have exercised upon such an occasion? Had the poor *French* Hugonots, after all the Infringements of their Liberties, and dayly Oppressions, happened thus to have violated their Loyalty, they must not have expected the Formalities of Law to convict them; nor the patience of Authority to hear them, nor the Indulgence of Majesty to reprieve them. A general Massacre, promiscuous Destruction, and exquisite Tortures had been the least they could have hoped for from the incensed Rabble, and their Barbarous Tyrannick Hands, who have formerly, in a base perfidious manner, slaughtered so many thousands of them, without the least pretence either of Justice, or Provocation.

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